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Amy Leh TSSA Winter 18

Amy Leh
CSUSB, aleh@csusb.edu

TRC TSSA Report

Name, Department, and Email address:
Amy Leh, ELT, aleh@csusb.edu

Name and Date of conference attended:
Computer-Using Educators, March 14-17, 2018, Palm Springs, California

Teaching Skill(s) Studied:

Coding and Robots: Teaching coding and using robots in instruction has been a trend in K-12 education. The presenters of "Bringing the Standards to Life Through Coding" shared how they taught coding using robots. "Ozobots," "Spheros," and "Dot" are common robots used by K-12 teachers. The presenters purchased class sets with robots and worksheets and planned their instruction using the class sets as resources. They showed how they taught different subjects, e.g., math and language arts, using coding and robots. From the videos presented by the presenters, it was very clear that students (even primary school students) can learn coding and that teaching coding may foster student engagement in learning. The students' excitement and engagement motivated me to purchase a set of robot and to learn how the pupils learned using such a robot. Student sample projects may be found at bit.do/CodingCUE2018.

1:1 Teaching and Learning: Many students in schools have their own devices, e.g., iPad or/and Chromebook; thus one to one (1:1) has been another trend in K-12 education. In the "Feedback and Assessment," the presenters discussed how to provide feedback and assessment in a 1:1 class. They talked about what feedback is and what feedback is not. They stated, "Feedback is (1) Informative: Helps students see the objective, where they are in relation to it, and what they need to do to improve, (2) Timely & Useful: Quick turnaround is key. Good feedback can be applied right away to work in progress, and (3) Mutually Beneficial: Helps teachers identify trends. Feedback is not (1) A Grade: When students see feedback and a grade in the same sitting, they ignore the feedback and focus almost entirely on the grade and (2) Praise: Focus on fostering a growth mindset in students by identifying where they excelled and where they should go next with their learning." The resources they shared were very beneficial for me, for example, using the Google Form add-on "flubaroo" to auto-grade, analyze, and send scores to students. The presenters tested it with us at tinyurl.com/powerupflubaroo.

Google Add-Ons: A presentation conducted by more than 10 presenters focused on Google add-ons. The aforementioned add-on "flubaroo" was one of the add-ons that can be very useful in teaching and learning.

Impact on Current Teaching (How was this info applied)?

I totally agree with the presenters on what feedback is and is not. This presentation reminded me of the importance of giving timely feedback that I sometimes failed to do due to my busy schedule. I plan to study some of the Google add-ons and integrate them into my instruction.

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